

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 1870

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SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION: LOWENSTEIN PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: MAYNES/LOWENSTEIN TELECON MARCH 10

FOLLOWING ARE EDITED EXCERPTS FROM LOWENSTEIN PRESS
CONFERENCE MARCH 10:

QTE. Q. WOULD YOU, AS THE CHIEF AMERICAN DELEGATE,
COMMENT, SIR, ON MR. TYSON'S STATEMENT?

A. FIRST OF ALL LET ME JUST MAKE IT CLEAR
THAT REVEREND BRADY TYSON IS A PERSON OF GREAT
QUALITY AND COMPASSION WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN HUMAN
RIGHTS PROBLEMS ALL HIS LIFE. HE MADE A VALID AND
IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO THIS DELEGATION, AS DID,
I BELIEVE, EVERY MEMBER OF IT. WARREN HEWITT,
WHO IS HERE, HAS BEEN JUST SUPERB. GLORIA GASTON AND
LOIS MATTESON AND ALL THE PEOPLE ON THE DELEGATION
HAVE WORKED TOGETHER AND HAVE COME TO UNDERSTAND AND
RESPECT EACH OTHER EVEN WHEN THEY HAVE DIFFERING
VIEWS. THAT'S PART OF THE STRENGTH OF AMERICAN
DEMOCRACY. THE PARTICULAR COMMENTS OF MR. TYSON THAT
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YOU ARE ASKING ABOUT WERE MADE, AS HE HAS SAID,
IN HIS PERSONAL CAPACITY SPEAKING FOR HIMSELF. HE
SIMPLY SAID WHAT HE FELT. THESE REMARKS WERE NOT
APPROVED BY ME AS HEAD OF THE DELEGATION. I DIDN'T
KNOW THAT HE WAS GOING TO MAKE THEM THEY WERE NOT
APPROVED BY ANYONE IN OFFICIAL POSITION.
CERTAINLY IT IS CLEAR THAT TO GIVE YOUR OWN PERSONAL VIEWS ON

SOMETHING OF SIGNIFICANCE WHEN YOU'RE SPEAKING WITH THE SIGN SAYING "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU IN INAPPROPRIATE, AS THE PRESIDENT HAS SAID. I THINK THAT, IN PERSPECTIVE, A STATEMENT MADE BY A PERSON SPEAKING, AS HE HAS ACKNOWLEDGED, FOR HIMSELF, WITHOUT THE APPROVAL OF HIS GOVERNMENT IS PERHAPS WORTH LESS EXCITEMENT THAN IT HAS GENERATED.

IF AS MUCH EXCITEMENT HAS BEEN GENERATED BY SOME OF THE OTHER THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED AT THE COMMISSION AS WAS GENERATED BY A COUPLE OF UNAUTHORIZED SENTENCES SAID BY ONE PERSON FOR HIMSELF, THE GENERAL PERCEPTION OF THE COMMISSION'S WORK WOULD HAVE BEEN, I THINK, MORE ACCURATE, AND WE WOULD HAVE DONE MORE TO HELP PEOPLE SUFFERING FROM HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS...SO FAR AS DR. TYSON'S SPEECH IS CONCERNED, I THINK IT IS TOO BAD THAT A GENERALLY GOOD STATEMENT ON PROBLEMS OF GREAT CONCERN WAS LOST IN THE TIDAL WAVE OF ATTENTION THAT HAS ENGULFED A COUPLE OF SENTENCES REFLECTING HIS OWN PRIVATE VIEWS.

Q. BUT THE EXPLANATION CAME AFTERWARDS.

A. I UNDERSTAND THE SEQUENCE. I'M TALKING ABOUT THE CONTINUING COVERAGE AND INTEREST AFTER THE EXPLANATION CAME...

Q. COULD WE GET YOUR PERSONAL VIEW ABOUT WHETHER THE TYSON STATEMENTS WERE IN THE FRAMEWORK UNCLASSIFIED

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AT LEAST OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICY?

A. I THINK I SHOULDN'T GIVE MY PERSONAL VIEW BECAUSE THE WHOLE PROBLEM SEEMS TO COME FROM PEOPLE EXPRESSING PERSONAL VIEWS (LAUGHTER) WHO SOMETIMES END UP UTTERING INAPPROPRIATE REMARKS. (LAUGHTER)

Q. (INAUDIBLE) A TECHNICALITY, THAT A MEMBER OF YOUR DELEGATION GETS UP AND SPEAKS, ISN'T THERE SOME UNDERSTANDING WITH ANY MEMBER OF YOUR DELEGATION THAT IN THE POSITION THAT THEY ARE HOW TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES OR EVEN HOW COULD EXPLAIN THE TECHNICALITY. I MEAN ANY MEMBER OF YOUR DELEGATION GETS UP AND YOU DON'T KNOW BEFOREHAND WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO SAY, THERE'S NO UNDERSTANDING?

A. THERE'S AN UNDERSTANDING BUT ALSO, IN THE COURSE OF GENERAL UNDERSTANDING, THERE HAS OCCURRED A MISUNDERSTANDING. WE HAD AGREED THAT THE

EXPOSITION ON THIS ITEM ON THE AGENDA WOULD BE MADE BY DR. TYSON. WE DISCUSSED IN GENERAL TERMS HIS FOCUS. THE UNITED STATES WAS FOR THE FIRST TIME CO-SPONSORING THE RESOLUTION, AND THAT WAS SOMETHING WHICH HE HAD WORKED ON; THAT IS HIS AREA OF EXPERTISE.

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ALL OF YOU HAVE NOTICED THAT I ALWAYS SPEAK EXTEMPORANEOUSLY. PERHAPS NO GROUP HAS ITS HUMAN RIGHTS MORE CONSTANTLY TROD UPON THAN THE PEOPLE FROM THE SECRETARIAT WHO ARE TRYING TO WRITE DOWN WHAT I SAY...AS A PERSON WHO HAS ALWAYS SPOKEN EXTEMPORANEOUSLY. I CAN APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT THERE'S A RISK WHEN PEOPLE SPEAK EXTEMPORANEOUSLY. ONE MAY SAY IN PASSING SOMETHING BEYOND WHAT ONE SHOULD SAY. I TRY NOT TO DO IT. I'M SURE MANY DELEGATES HAVE BEEN GUILTY OF IT. ASK YOURSELF THIS QUESTION, BECAUSE YOU'RE ALL PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN WATCHING THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES FOR YEARS. WOULD IT NOT BE BETTER, FROM EVERY POINT OF VIEW, IF WE TREATED SUCH COMMENTS IN THAT PERSPECTIVE? WOULDN'T THE DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS BE LIVELIER AND PERHAPS MORE USEFUL? I REGRET VERY MUCH THE FACT THAT SOME OF DR. TYSON'S REMARKS MISREPRESENTED MY GOVERNMENT'S POINT OF VIEW, AND I REGRET TOO THE ENORMOUS PUBLICITY THAT THAT HAS ENGENDERED WHICH HAS DROWNED OUT OTHER THINGS THAT I THINK DESERVE MORE ATTENTION. BUT I DON'T THINK WE CAN AFFORD TO GIVE UP ALL SPONTANEITY IN DEBATE.

IN SUMMARY, THAT STATEMENT OUGHT NOT TO HAVE BEEN
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MADE. IT DID NOT REPRESENT GOVERNMENT POLICY.
WHEN THAT FACT WAS CLEARED UP, IT SEEMS TO ME WE OUGHT
TO HAVE MOVED ON TO OTHER MATTERS, SOME OF WHICH
I HAVE DISCUSSED HERE TODAY.

Q. (INAUDIBLE, SOMETHING ABOUT GENERAL POLICY
OF US ADMINISTRATION RE HUMAN RIGHTS.)

A. I BELIEVE WHAT'S CLEAR IS THAT, I SAY THIS
NOW WITHOUT THE AUTHORITY OF MY GOVERNMENT, FOR
MYSELF, YOU MAY LABEL THIS IN ADVANCE AS MY PRIVATE
VIEW, I'M EXCEEDING MY INSTRUCTIONS (LAUGHTER). BUT
I DEEPLY BELIEVE THAT WHAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES, THE SECRETARY OF STATE, AND THE
AMBASSADOR TO THE UN HAVE DONE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
HAS BEEN MOST HELPFUL TO PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD WHO PREVIOUSLY
DID NOT HAVE THE FOCUS THAT WOULD
ASSIST IN EASING THEIR PROBLEMS. WHAT HAS BEEN
ACHIEVED BY THE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY OF STATE,
AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAS BEEN SO HELPFUL IN THE SHORT
TIME THEY HAVE BEEN IN OFFICE, HAS BEEN SO SIGNIFI-
CANT, THAT IF WE'RE CONCERNED ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS
WE SHOULD FEEL AN ENORMOUS GRATITUDE TO THEM FOR
WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST REMARKABLE CHANGE IN
ATMOSPHERE ON THIS QUESTION THAT HAS BEEN
ACHIEVED IN ANY SIMILAR PERIOD OF TIME IN MEMORY.
AND AS SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN HUMAN RIGHTS
ISSUES IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER ALL MY LIFE, I HOPE
SOMEHOW THAT PEOPLE REMEMBER THAT THAT'S WHAT HAS
BEEN DONE BY THE LEADERS OF MY GOVERNMENT. END QTE.
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